

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 15, 2006

The President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. President:

We write to you out of extreme concern over the increasingly calamitous situation in Darfur, Sudan and lack of progress on implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). Congress has consistently called on the administration to act decisively to help bring an end to the genocide. Now, as the U.S. assumes the presidency of the United Nations Security Council this month, we urge the U.S. to show strong leadership and introduce a resolution authorizing a UN force, provide increased financial support to the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) in the interim, step up pressure on the National Congress Party to comply with Security Council resolutions 1556, 1564, 1591, and 1593 and to fully implement the CPA.

Since Congress and the administration declared genocide in mid and late 2004 respectively, it is estimated that 400,000 people have died, 2.5 million have been displaced, and over 3 million – almost half of Darfur's population – depend on emergency assistance. Over the last several months conditions in Darfur have deteriorated. The government-sponsored Janjaweed have continued the killing, raping, and terrorizing of civilians which have been their calling cards throughout the genocide. According to the UN, some of the attacks have been carried out by Government of Sudan troops as late as January 27th.

Although AMIS has done its best with a limited mandate, 7,000 troops for a region the size of Texas, and inadequate resources, the security situation worsens on the ground. AU personnel themselves have become targets of the violence and tragically a number of them have been killed. As the situation deteriorates, support is growing for a UN peacekeeping force with a Chapter 7 mandate to protect civilians from the continued violence. In January the AU Peace and Security Council expressed its support, in principle, to the transition from AMIS to a UN Mission. Also on February 3rd, the UN Security Council approved a plan to prepare a range of options for peacekeeping in Darfur.

We strongly urge you to use the U.S. presidency of the Security Council this month to introduce a resolution authorizing the deployment of a UN peacekeeping force to Darfur. It is imperative that this force is quickly deployed. The AU, in the meantime, remains the only presence on the ground now and funding for AMIS is urgently needed. The AU is projecting a budget shortfall at the end of March of 2006 which could threaten the peacekeeping mission in Darfur. It is essential that while we plan to transition the peacekeeping force in Darfur, we address the immediate needs of AMIS – the only security in this volatile region. Over the past two years the U.S. has provided significant levels of much-needed humanitarian and peacekeeping assistance and it is vital that this assistance continues. We urge you to continue to exercise your leadership efforts

towards ending the genocide in Darfur through seeking specifically designated and robust funding for peacekeeping operations in Darfur in any appropriations requests you make.

We have serious concerns about the culture of impunity in Khartoum. Even in the face of four Security Council resolutions which seek to determine what atrocities have been carried out and to punish those responsible for the heinous acts of genocide no individual has been held responsible. We have a responsibility to prevent and punish the crimes of genocide and we must ensure that all those involved in the planning and carrying out the genocide, including at the highest levels, are held accountable.

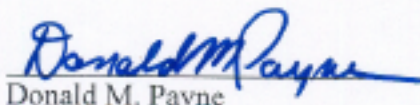
Thanks to the leadership role played by your administration, the CPA was signed on January 9th, 2004, by the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A). As you are aware, the CPA gives southern Sudan the right to a self-determination referendum after a six-year interim period. The CPA also offers the regime in Khartoum an opportunity to make unity attractive during the interim period. The U.S. played a key role in the peace process, and the signing of the CPA was celebrated by the international community as a major breakthrough.

While the CPA has yielded some successes, the U.S. must not let up pressure on the National Congress Party to fully implement all its elements. It is very disturbing that many of the key commissions to be established have been formed but are not functioning. Additionally, President Bashir must accept and implement the findings of the Abyei Border Commission, government troops must be withdrawn from Southern Sudan on schedule, and Joint Integrated Units must be established. Furthermore, for the CPA to be successful the oil revenues must be shared equally with the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS).

The CPA is not only a negotiated agreement between the North and South, it also serves as a model for peace for all of Sudan. Without consistent and unified international pressure on the government in Khartoum to implement the CPA, end genocide in Darfur, and seriously negotiate a peace agreement in Eastern Sudan, we will witness more bloodshed and genocidal violence throughout the country.

We look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure a true and lasting peace in Sudan.

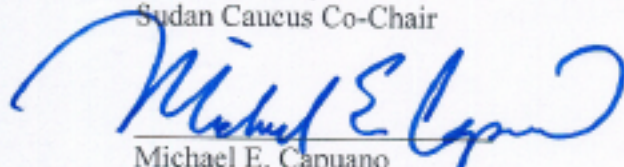
Sincerely,



Donald M. Payne
Sudan Caucus Co-Chair



Frank Wolf
Sudan Caucus Co-Chair



Michael E. Capuano
Sudan Caucus Co-Chair



Tom Tancredo
Sudan Caucus Co-Chair

Nancy Pelosi

Mrs Van Hollen

Charles Blum

Tom Lantos

Faleomavaea

William McCulloch

Bob Inglis

Mike Doherty

Dan Burton

George Miller

Ed Royce³

June Evans

Cathy B. Maloney

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Jim Leach

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John Dingell

Adam Schiff

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Ernie L. Engle

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William J. Schwartz

Jim Lee Brown

Bob A. Brady

Debbie Wasserman Schultz

Rust Holt

Tammy Baldwin

Jan Schirovsky

John W. Olver

Scott Garrett

Michael H. Michael

John McDermott

Sam Lane

Linda D. Sanchez⁶

Liam E. Watson

Betty McCollum

Frank Stranks

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Albert R. Yfer

Sam Moore

John Lewis
